

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Monitoring the Implementation of Property Master Plans

Property: White River Property Group

Master Plan Year: 2013

Land Management – general management objectives

<i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Maintain and improve habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife, both game and non-game species.▪ Provide safe and sustainable recreational access while protecting the ecology and unique features of the properties.▪ Protect and enhance habitats and populations of threatened and endangered species and species of greatest conservation need.▪ Reduce the threat of invasive species to protect the biodiversity of the WRP.▪ Enhance and expand native communities at a landscape scale, with an emphasis on Boreal Forest, Northern Dry-Mesic Forest, and wetlands to benefit game and non-game species.▪ Provide opportunities for habitat and species research and public education consistent with the approved management habitat and species objectives.
<i>Accomplishments 2014</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inspected and maintained existing access points• Applied for and received funding for buckthorn control in headwaters region• Continued buckthorn control along South Fork

Fisheries Management – Coldwater Streams

<p><i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Manage and protect riparian vegetation along classified trout streams to enhance in-stream habitat quality and productivity of trout. ▪ Maintain, or increase as practicable, the extent and quality of Class 1 and Class 2 trout streams for brown and brook trout populations. ▪ Protect rare/endangered species and species of greatest conservation need in the streams and on fishery areas. ▪ Allow adequate aquatic organism passage, including at trail and road crossings.
<p><i>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Install and maintain Department approved stream habitat enhancements, bank stabilization using rock rip rap, bank stabilization using vegetation root systems, lunger and boom cover installations, revetments and current deflectors, and brush bundling to protect or enhance in-stream habitat quality and diversity. ▪ Remove beaver dams to maintain the free flowing environment coldwater streams required to maintain robust trout populations. ▪ Consult with Natural Heritage Conservation during the planning of in-stream and riparian habitat enhancement projects. ▪ Continue to conduct electrofishing and netting surveys according to statewide monitoring protocols, track long-term trends and provide results to public.
<p><i>Accomplishments 2014</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removed 8 beaver and 15 dams from White River, Kern Creek and Bolen Creek • Consulted with NHC on headwaters bridge/culvert project

Recreation Management – general use objectives

<p><i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to support and provide high-quality fishing, hunting, and trapping opportunities. ▪ Provide opportunities for high-quality, nature-based, non-hunting-related recreational activities, such as paddling, hiking, cross country skiing, and wildlife viewing, as is compatible with the property's capabilities and the primary objective, above. ▪ To the degree practicable, accommodate compatible incidental open-space recreational uses; for example, nature study and berry picking (incidental uses are uses that are not specifically managed for on the property). ▪ Provide opportunities for research and educational activities consistent with the primary management purposes and user safety. ▪ Utilize educational presentations, exhibits and messages to enhance and protect natural resources.
<p><i>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bicycle and horse use are prohibited on the properties, except on roadways open to public vehicles and on any state trails developed in the future on former railroad grades that traverse the properties. ATV and off-road vehicle use is prohibited except as authorized for mobility-impaired access. ▪ Snowmobile trails that are part of regional trail networks are permitted at the discretion of the property manager. Snowmobiles are otherwise prohibited on the properties. ▪ Increase public awareness of unique fishery resources by working with clubs, communities, and landowners to develop and improve access where feasible. ▪ Provide information and amenities at access points and/or trail heads to provide maps or information about recreational opportunities, policies, and invasive species. ▪ Property boundaries are posted with signs to assist visitors in finding and staying on state lands. Other property regulatory and informational signs are posted at parking lots and access points. ▪ Acquire property or establish land use agreements to enable recreational access to water resources as opportunity allows.
<p><i>Accomplishments 2014</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquired property from willing sellers for Fishery Area and SNA. • Posted property boundaries as time and staffing allowed.

Property: White River Fishery Area

Scenic Resources Management Area – Headwaters

<i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Restore and protect the headwater springs, ponds and streams from environmental degradation.▪ Maintain the Exceptional Resource Water designation.▪ Maintain native vegetation along classified trout streams to provide high quality in-stream and riparian habitat.▪ Maintain, or increase as practicable, the extent and quality of classified trout streams for brown and brook trout populations.▪ Maintain and restore, where applicable, the free-flowing nature of the stream.▪ Provide conditions where users of the trout stream and watershed area may feel they are in a secluded setting.▪ Protect habitat for sustainable herptile populations along the White River, tributaries and ephemeral ponds.▪ Enhance user awareness, safety, and appreciation of natural resources.▪ Maintain vehicular access over a clear-span bridge to the existing parking area that provides access to in-stream fishing, upland hunting, and an artesian well located near the South Branch and White River Fisheries Road terminus.▪ Manage for northern hardwood species in the Southwest area near Rocky Run Road.▪ Provide active forestry management, including forest openings, consistent with BMPs to maintain the species diversity of plants and animals. <p>Lake Two Conifer Forest Zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Within the Lake Two Conifer Forest Zone, promote older age classes.▪ Within the Lake Two Conifer Forest Zone, increase red and white pine, and oak.
<i>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Install and maintain Department approved stream habitat enhancements to protect or enhance in-stream and riparian habitat quality and diversity.▪ Protect in-stream and near stream habitats by activities that include establishing desired native plant species and controlling invasive plant species.▪ Replace undersized culvert with clear-span bridge to restore fish passage and support vehicle access to the existing parking lot and artesian well.▪ Restore or replace the historic, educational sign located at the White River Road parking area.▪ Remove beaver and beaver dams; maintain the free-flowing environment coldwater streams required for robust, self-sustaining trout populations.▪ Inventory and monitor herptile populations to document and evaluate their habitat needs.▪ Implement appropriate management actions to support herptile populations, using plan variance if necessary.▪ Leave long-lived reserve trees as individuals or in groups to provide timber, wildlife, and aesthetic

	<p>value whenever their retention does not conflict with regeneration and other forest management objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Require loggers to minimize visual and audible impacts by harvesting during leaf-off periods. <p>Lake Two Conifer Forest Zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Within the lake two conifer forest zone, use old growth pine management to promote pine dominated areas with older forest characteristics. ▪ Within lake two conifer forest zone, reduce aspen and red maple. ▪ No wildlife openings created within Lake Two Conifer zone. ▪ No biomass harvesting within Lake Two Conifer zone.
<p><i>Accomplishments 2014</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted prescribed burn on Delta Drummond Rd seed nursery to increase warm season grass and forb components. • Applied for approval to begin bridge/culvert replacement project • Began work with Friends of White River to cooperate on construction and replacement of historic sign. • Removed 8 beaver and 15 dams from White River, Kern Creek and Bolen Creek • Timber sales established to leave reserve trees and conduct logging activities during leaf-off period.

Scenic Resources Management Area – Transitional Boreal Fishery

<p><i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect the headwater springs, ponds and streams from environmental degradation. ▪ Maintain the Exceptional Resource Water designation. ▪ Maintain native vegetation along classified trout streams in order to provide high quality in-stream habitat. ▪ Maintain, or increase as practicable, the extent and quality of classified trout streams for brown and brook trout populations. ▪ Protect habitat for sustainable herptile populations along the White River, tributaries and ephemeral ponds. ▪ Active forestry management, including forest openings, consistent with BMPs to maintain the species diversity of plants and animals. ▪ Maintain aspen while allowing the conifer component to increase. ▪ Encourage maintenance of existing canoe landings and seek increased canoe and angler access points. ▪ Evaluate handicap accessible fishing access in partnership with Townships. ▪ Provide conditions where users of the trout stream and watershed area may feel they are in a secluded setting. ▪ Maintain, restore and enhance grasslands wherever practicable with an emphasis on control of invasive and woody species.
<p><i>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No timber harvest within Sajdak Springs SNA. ▪ Activities to protect in-stream and near stream habitats include the establishment of desired native plant species and controlling invasive plant species. ▪ Install and maintain Department approved stream habitat enhancements to protect or enhance in-stream habitat quality and diversity. ▪ Assess the feasibility of offering nature interpretation material at landings, parking lots or wildlife observation areas by 2015. Take action as appropriate. ▪ Cost-share handicapped fishing on Township land at Pike River Rd access if feasible. ▪ Develop parking lot with walk-in river access on the Walker/Hanson parcel off Sutherland Road. ▪ Develop walk-in angler access near end of White River Road. ▪ Remove beaver and dams; maintain the free flowing environment coldwater streams required for robust, self-sustaining trout populations. ▪ Inventory and monitor herptile populations to document and evaluate their habitat needs. ▪ Implement appropriate management actions to support herptile populations, using plan variance if necessary. ▪ Restore wetlands on properties that were artificially drained. ▪ Actively manage aspen with minimal disturbance to existing conifer, following universal forest management prescriptions provided in Section 2-1. ▪ Require loggers to minimize visual and audible impacts by harvesting during leaf-off periods.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage white pine component in hardwood stands through underplanting.
<i>Accomplishments 2014</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required loggers to minimize visual and audible impacts by harvesting during leaf-off periods. • Removed 8 beaver and 15 dams from White River, Kern Creek and Bolen Creek • Identified location for angler access near end of White River Road.

Native Community Management Area – Mid-River Boreal Slopes

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Allow only natural processes to develop older forest characteristics. ▪ Increase opportunities for walk-in access and carry-in boat access. ▪ Evaluate disabled accessible fishing access in partnership with the village of Mason at the existing park. ▪ Use fee and easement purchase authority (Map B) to acquire land for watershed protection and stream access. <p>Dam/Flowage Zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure an upstream barrier to invasion of exotic species from Lake Superior.
<p>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Allow and encourage research and monitoring to reduce clay bank erosion. ▪ Passively manage this entire Management Area. ▪ Salvage may take place only after consultation from an integrated team of resource managers. ▪ Secure public access to the property and White River through land or easement donation or purchase, especially in the watershed segment between the Maple Ridge Road crossing and the White River Flowage boat landing. (Map B) ▪ Maintain and develop walk-in access; provide appropriate parking. ▪ Cost-share handicapped accessible fishing bulkhead at White River Park if feasible. <p>Dam/Flowage Zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Passively manage the riparian areas and slopes. ▪ Allow only natural processes to develop older forest characteristics and maintain floodplain relics. ▪ Salvage may occur only after consultation from an integrated team of resource managers from Wildlife, Forestry, ER, Fisheries etc. ▪ No timber harvest. ▪ If the dam is ever abandoned, assure bedrock falls or other structure prevents passage of exotic invasive species (eg. Lamprey) from downstream.
<p>Accomplishments 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquired land from willing sellers. • Maintained access points.

Habitat Management Area – Mid-River Uplands

<p><i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Manage for protection of the slopes by minimizing run-off from adjacent uplands. ▪ Manage for grassland consistent with the Highway 2 Grassland Conservation Opportunity Area, where opportunities exist. ▪ Maintain aspen while allowing the conifer component to increase. ▪ Use fee and easement purchase authority (Map B) to obtain watershed protection and provide additional public access. ▪ Expand project boundary to protect water quality by preserving adjacent forested uplands along the lower White River. Adjacent deforested uplands contribute large deposits of clay and sand to the White River.
<p><i>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To facilitate future land acquisition, allow farming to continue via agreements on select new purchases. ▪ Mitigate sediment loading using a combination of reforestation, brushland establishment, native plantings and/or wetland restoration. ▪ Work with Bayfield County Land Conservation Department to identify and replace stream crossings that contribute to excessive sediment loads, and with NRCS to protect and restore riparian areas damaged by agricultural erosion. ▪ Acquire lands and river access through easement or fee title. ▪ Provide minimal impact parking and walk-in access as opportunities are available. ▪ Actively manage aspen with minimal disturbance to existing conifer component. ▪ Actively manage aspen to provide breeding and nesting habitat for woodcock.
<p><i>Accomplishments 2014</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquired land from willing sellers.

Property: Bibon Swamp State Natural Area

Native Community Management Area – Bibon Swamp Wetlands

<i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Manage for a matrix of wetland and native plant communities.▪ Allow old forest to develop through natural processes and passive management.▪ Maintain primitively developed, current access to the river and tributaries.▪ Provide access for non-consumptive users with an emphasis on bird observations, botanical observations, and hiking.▪ Protect habitat for sustainable herptile populations along the White River, tributaries and ephemeral ponds.▪ Maintain, or increase as practicable, the extent and quality of classified trout streams for brown and brook trout populations.
<i>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Protect in-stream and all wetland habitats by emphasizing control and removal of invasive plant species, especially buckthorn.▪ Remove beaver and dams when necessary to maintain the free-flowing environment of coldwater streams, required for robust trout populations.▪ Inventory and monitor herptile populations to document and evaluate their habitat needs.▪ Implement appropriate management actions to support herptile populations, using plan variance if necessary.▪ Maintain existing canoe landings.▪ Assess the feasibility of offering nature interpretation material at landings, parking lots or wildlife observation areas by 2015. Take action as appropriate.▪ Allow only natural processes to shape matrix of wetland communities and develop older forest characteristics.▪ Salvage operations due to catastrophic wind, ice, fire, disease or insects may take place. Prior to salvage, an interdisciplinary team from Wildlife, Forestry, NHC, and Fisheries will be formed to determine salvage or management, considering the original objectives of the area.▪ Allow and encourage research and monitoring.▪ No timber harvest.▪ No additional recreational features will be developed.▪ Appropriate fire suppression techniques will be used in each event to provide effective fire suppression while minimizing resource damage.
<i>Accomplishments 2014</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inspected and maintained existing access points

Native Community Management Area – Bibon Swamp Uplands

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Manage towards a mixed forest of long-lived species such as white pine, spruce, cedar, and Northern Hardwoods, while reducing aspen dominance. Provide older age classes.▪ Provide a buffer zone to protect water quality during timber harvest.
<i>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Use active management, including underplanting, to convert aspen dominated stands to longer-lived species with a long-term goal (>50 years) of providing older forest characteristics.▪ Discourage aspen in hardwood stands through implementation of uneven aged silvicultural harvesting.
<i>Accomplishments 2014</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A timber sale was marked in a Northern Hardwoods stand. The marked thinning will help move this stand towards the long-term property management goals for the property.

Property: White River Wildlife Area

Native Community Management Area – Boreal Forest and Floodplain

<i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Allow only natural processes to develop older forest characteristics.▪ Provide habitat for plant and animal species that use old forest community types.
<i>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Allow old forest to develop through natural processes and passive management.▪ Allow no timber harvesting to take place.▪ Salvage may take place only after consultation from an integrated team of resource managers from Wildlife, Forestry, ER, Fisheries etc.▪ Maintain the existing connector snowmobile segment.▪ No additional recreational amenities will be developed.
<i>Accomplishments 2014</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Passive management only. No activities in 2014.

Habitat Management Area – Wildlife Uplands

<i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create age class diversity to maintain and improve wildlife habitat. ▪ Maintain the native origin conifer component. ▪ Provide accessibility for disabled users. ▪ Provide a shooting range to encourage hunting traditions.
<i>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Manage existing plantations towards natural appearance and do not replant. ▪ Vary rotation length among aspen stands across the property, in order to create better age class distribution. ▪ Maintain existing service road, wildlife openings and identify potential new wildlife openings. ▪ Develop recreational access improvements, including parking, accessible hunting blinds and accessible trails. ▪ Develop a single ADA accessible 100-yard shooting range.
<i>Accomplishments 2014</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry plan to diversify aspen age classes currently under development. • Mowing maintenance scheduled for service road and trails in 2014 was delayed due to extreme wet conditions. Rescheduled for 2015. • Parking area and new trails laid out and marked for timber harvest in 2015-2016. • Funding secured for grubbing one new trail following timber harvest. • Worked with Ashland County and the Town of Gingles to obtain support for developing a multi-purpose trail head parking area along the existing County snowmobile trail. • Cleared and rerouted 5,350 feet of logging trails around wetlands for future construction of permanent accessible trail system. • Cleared 1,510 feet of new trail corridor to facilitate development of additional accessible trail. • Applied for funding for three new gates to prevent vehicular trespass on accessible hunter walking trails.